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## HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES

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7:00 p.m., Monday, September 22, 2003  
Los Altos Community Meeting Chambers, City Hall  
One North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California 94022

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### CALL TO ORDER

### ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Carpenter; Vice-Chair Hull; Commissioners; Dai, Drewes (for part of the meeting), Foerster and Schink; and Staff Liaison Crawford. Absent: Commissioner Humphries

### MINUTES

Approval of the corrected minutes of the August 25, 2003 meeting was moved by Commissioner Foerster and seconded by Vice-Chair Hull. (Corrections are “De Vincenzi’s daughter, Mrs. Ardito,” not “Roberts’ daughter” under 7.a. Commissioner Foerster’s Report. The section on the barns will be double-checked against Vice-Chair Hull’s hand-out and with former Commissioner McDonald. Section 7.c. “expand the sub-committees’ responsibilities to review properties that are “Landmark Eligible” and below.)

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

### DISCUSSION/ACTIONS ITEMS

1. Ordinance Redraft by James Walgren, Community Development Director—Commissioner Humphries’ suggested changes:

12.44.020 A should say: “Alteration” means.....of an Historic Resource having a rating greater than 50 as described in part H of this section or any property within an historic district.....

12.44.020 C should substitute “landmark” for “resource” (fifth word from end of sentence)

12.44.030 and 12.44.040 Add “as an Historic Landmark” to the title of both these sections (after “designation”).

were accepted except for one: in 12.44.020 C “resource” remained instead of “landmark” (fifth word from end of sentence. Resource is defined further along in the list or document. The group consensus also was that the use of “resource” became a bit circular in that sentence and section.

2. 235 Fremont—A. Idiv (contractor/designer) and the owner presented their proposed changes to the home and the property (currently rated 65). Commissioner Foerster moved that the Historical Commission forward their approval of the proposed changes to the Planning staff and if necessary, the Planning Commission. Seconded by Vice-Chair Hull. Additional discussion included the plan to tear down a caretaker’s cottage or house, carport and an existing garage, replacing with a new garage. The plan includes almost doubling the square footage of the home and Commissioner Dai and others discussed with the resident and Idiv the information from Planning about the lot size and the probable allowable size of a home on that lot. The design elements such as using an oval-shaped treatment over the second floor windows throughout on the new windows and doors on the front and rear looked very pleasing esthetically. The Commission voted unanimously to recommend the plan presented by Idiv and the owner to planning staff. The Historical Commission thanked both for the opportunity to help them with their plans to restore and enlarge an old home.

1. Chairperson's Report—Chair Carpenter passed out an updated City Council Representative schedule and reported that she had received correspondence from the owners of 220 University Avenue about their interest in receiving a landmark designation with the City of Los Altos. The Chair covered the point with the Commission that 965 Berry needs to be on the agenda to cover a Landmark Designation as well as a Mills Act Agreement. That item will be on the agenda for the October meeting as well as the Landmark Resolution request from 220 University Avenue’s homeowners.

2. Commission Discussion and Reports

- a. Potential Landmarks – Foerster reminded the Commission that the site of 316 Main St. should continue to be considered a landmark site; yet the consensus of the Commissioners who evaluated the property recently during the remodelling was that the integrity of the original building was minimal and that the building itself should not continue to be a landmark. The group discussed correcting this situation on the Agenda for the Joint Study Session in December with the Council. Moved by Foerster and seconded by Commissioner Schink to revise the primary record sheets and rating for 316 Main St. Walking Tour Brochure—Foerster had inventoried these and there are enough (about 1100) to last this year. No further action needed in the short term.
- b. Policy Change to Request Short Written Memos from Property Owners and/or their agents (Architects, Contractors, etc.) requesting Historical Commission Assistance with Plans – Commissioner Humphries at the last meeting had recommended that plans like those presented verbally for 965 Berry be provided in a short memo from the architect, contractor or the owner. This needs to be systematic and consistent. There had been consensus last month about this “Future Agenda Item” and all agreed that it would improve the Commission’s function. The Historical Commission would like to discuss the concept with

Planning Staff and perhaps, the Planning Commission or a sub-committee of having a very close to final approval chance to check that the proposal(s) remained consistent. At what point, might it be appropriate for a sub-committee of the Historical Commission to see the end of the process?

- c. Griffin House on Foothill College Campus – The article from the Town Crier was passed around. A year or two ago, Foothill – De Anza hired an Environmental Impact consultant to review the proposed demolition of the Lohman House and the Historical Commission was given an opportunity comment on the building's historical and architectural value. Although the Griffin House is in Los Altos Hills, there was a consensus that it is more important architecturally and historically to the area than the Lohman House. It was moved by Vice-Chair Hull that a letter be sent to Bernadine Fong or Martha Kanter and to the Executive Director of Facilities at Foothill College. Seconded by Commissioner Foerster. The Commission discussed carbon copying the Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission, the State Office of Historic Preservation and the California Preservation Foundation on the letter. The content of the letter would probably follow the letter sent under former Chair McChesney's term of office regarding the Lohman House.

## **HISTORY MUSEUM REPORT/STAFF REPORT**

Staff gave a verbal update on the State Office of Historic Preservation's plan to provide the HRI template on a cd-rom. Staff will contact the Cities of Ontario and Riverside to learn more about the prototype templates that are feeding into this proposal.

## **WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE**

## **OTHER MATTERS/NEW BUSINESS**

Future Agenda Items: The Commission discussed using a very brief version of the Power Point presentation on historic preservation for the Joint Study Session with Council. Vice-Chair Hull will bring that to either the October or the November meeting for a quick review with the Commission.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Foerster moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Drewes. Approved. The Commission adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

